mitigating the consequences should one occur at all. Among various other safety features, containment for the nuclear reactors is provided.

(ii) The plants are constructed as per the standards laid down in the design specifications.

(iii) The plants are operated as per the standards laid down in the Technical Specifications. Qualified and trained personnel are employed for operation.

(iv) Setting up and operation of the plants is continuously reviewed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The Board is vested with power and operational freedom for making independent reviews and decisions.

(v) All releases from the plants into the environment are regulated by the limits stipulated by the AERB and are complied with.

(vi) Environmental Survey Laboratories are set up at all the plants before the plant goes into operation and these laboratories are in service throughout the plant life.

(vii) Occupational radiation exposures of personnel working in the plants are regulated by limits stipulated by AERB are the complied with.

(viii) An exclusion zone of 1.6 km radius around each operating station is established where no resident public habitation is permitted.

Pesticide Poisioning

1575. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that pesticides were first developed as patent poisons for chemical warfare and are highly poisonous;

(b) whether Government are aware of the occupational health hazards caused by the pesticides to workers, sprayers and if so, the details of such cases recorded during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are over 50 pesticide factories and 800 formulation plants in the country and if so, the details of illnesses reported/recorded; and

(d) whether pesticide poisoning would be notified through an ordinance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Safety of pesticides to man and environment is first scrutinized before allowing its safe and judicious use. Details of occupational health hazards and illnesses are, however, not reported/ recorded under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(d) No, Sir. Already suitable provisions exist under Section 26 of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Human encounter with drought

1576. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a book named 'Human encounter with drought' revived by Dr. A. T. Dudania, a well-known soniologist on Kalahandi draught; and

(b) what steps have Government taken so far to meet the situation in Kalahandi and other similar cases in the country for protecting the neglected tribal people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Government are aware of the book "Human Encounter with Drought."

(b) Short term as well as long term measures, many of them mentioned in the book have been unde-taken by the Government to mitigate the drought in Kalahandi and other similar districts in the country. The short term measures include relief works for generation of wage employment and assistance for provision of grain, fodder, drinking water facilities etc.